



The Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met at the Southview Recreation Center located at 1720 Vilma Street, Charlotte, NC 28208 on November 11 at 6 p.m.

PRC MINUTES November 11, 2014

ATTENDANCE

PRC Present:

Rob Brisley, Chair
Elaine Powell, Executive Secretary
Kendel Bryant, Vice-Chair
Aubin Guinness
Jude Harding
Sheryl Smith
Brenda McMoore
Tristan McMannis
Charlie McRee
Ed Barnhart
Jim Garges
Michael Kirschman

PRC Absent:

Joe Pata
Doug Burnett
Norman Mitchell

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Chair Rob Brisley, and with special recognition of all veterans, was followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Welcome and Introductions:

Each of the Park and Recreation Commissioners introduced themselves. Lola Massad, Division Director of Community and Recreation Center Services welcomed all to the Southview Recreation Center and introduced Joey Grahl as the Recreation Manager over the South Corridor. Joey recognized Kiana Brooks as the Facility Manager at Southview. Kiana welcomed all to "The View" and provided information on the programs and activities offered for ages 3 to 93; including cultural arts, fitness, youth sports and educational opportunities. The center opened in 1999 and serves the West Boulevard Corridor. In addition, DSS facilitates the Senior Nutrition Program at the center and the West Boulevard Boys and Girls Club runs the afterschool and summer camp programs at Southview. Kiana introduced center staff and recognized them as "the best". Staff present were: Mike Bragg, Mary Sampson, Abby Fowler, Jasmine Green and Korey Townsend.

Proclamations, Awards and Recognitions

Memorial Presentation – Hazel Richardson

Kiana Brooks, Facility Manager recognized and welcomed family and friends and colleagues of Hazel Richardson who were present for the evening's memorial presentation for Hazel, who passed away in July of 2014. Hazel served as the Southview facility manager from 2008 – 2014 and was described as a man with a BIG personality, a great heart and a passion to impact lives. A plaque was presented to his wife, Lisa, and children, Taylor and Nick. All present moved into the center's lobby for the memorial unveiling, a showcase of pictures and memorabilia of Hazel's family, community and football. In addition, Brighter Days Art Education added a hand painted portrait of Hazel to the mural in the playroom.

Retirement Recognition – Lola Massad, Patricia Poteat and Ken Koonce

Director Jim Garges announced the retirements of Lola Massad, Division Director of Community and Recreation Center Services, Patricia Poteat, South Regional Manager and Ken Koonce, Recreation Coordinator/Supervisor of Youth Sports Development. Jim thanked them for a combined 96 years of service and opportunities to make a difference in the many, many lives they came in contact with over the years. Each shared inspiring stories of their journey to and through their Park and Recreation careers and were presented with a custom glass bowl etched with their name and years of service.

Appointments – Advisory Council – Applicants

Athletics: ***Motion was made*** by Commissioner Harding to appoint **Jennifer Miller** to an unexpired term on the Athletic Advisory Council, expiring 6/2015, which was seconded by Commissioner McRee and approved unanimously.

Cooperative Extension: ***Motion was made*** by Commissioner McRee to appoint **June Hood** to an unexpired vacancy on the Cooperative Extension Advisory Council, expiring June, 2016, which was seconded by Commissioner Harding and approved unanimously.

Sr. Citizens: In the absence of Sr. Citizen Advisory Council Chair, Commissioner Norman Mitchell, appointment consideration of **Fran Mathay** and **Howard Braverman** was **deferred** to the January 13, 2015 PRC meeting.

(NOTE: On November 14, 2014 by voice vote, Fran Mathay and Howard Braverman were appointed to serve unexpired terms on the Sr. Citizen Advisory Council, expiring 6/2015.)

Public Hearings: - Naming of County Park Property

Director's Report

Director Jim Garges reported on the following:

Master Plan: The Department is nearly finished with the Master Plan update that will include an action plan to meet citizen needs. A final draft and an executive summary should be ready by the end of December and will be made available to the Park and Recreation Commission for review. In

addition, the updated Master Plan will be presented to the Towns, the City of Charlotte and the BOCC.

Tobacco Policy/Ordinance: The Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners approved both a Board of Health rule for smoke-free government grounds in Mecklenburg County and a County ordinance for tobacco-free County owned parks, greenways and nature preserves. Golf courses and all regional parks will be exempt from the ordinance but will give the Director the authority to declare certain regional parks to be tobacco-free during large events (i.e. during Festival in the Park at Freedom Park). The policy and ordinance in its final form will be made available when complete. Jim reminded the board that the policy and ordinance is not “about tobacco” but about the Health Director’s Chronic Disease Initiative. The policy and ordinance will go into effect in March of 2015. Signs will be funded by the Health Department and installed by Park and Recreation.

Commissioner Powell, expressed concern for Park Ranger support for ordinance enforcement. Director Garges said that the Park Rangers jobs will be to remind people of the ordinance. In most cases, as is with the tobacco free policy at Romare Bearden Park, a reminder is all that is necessary. Enforcement beyond this will be the responsibility of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department.

Commissioner Barnhart asked how Carolina’s Health Care plans to manage the policy/ordinance. Director Garges said they will have to direct people according to the policy/ordinance, which means they will not be able to direct them to our greenway. Knowing this section of our greenway is a hotspot for smokers, we will have signage in this area and CMPD will patrol.

Commissioner Brisley asked about communication to the public. Deputy Director, Michael Kirschman, said there would be a marketing campaign to inform the public as well as communication of the policy/ordinance on all rental and vendor contracts.

Newtown Memorial Playground Build: Over the course of 5 days; Monday, October 27 through Friday, October 31, close to 1,400 volunteers worked with Park and Recreation staff and representatives from Leathers & Associates, the leader in the custom-design, community-build playground field, to bring this playground to life. Nine shifts of volunteers, including teams from Bank of America, Carolinas Healthcare, CPCC, Wells Fargo, Piedmont Natural Gas and many more were among the volunteers. This playground, a tribute to those whose lives were lost in the December 2012 shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, will be dedicated on December 11, 2014.

PRC Chair Report

Executive Committee Nominations were deferred to the January 13, 2015 PRC meeting.

Consent Items

Motion was made by **Commissioner McRee** to approve all consent items, including the October 21, 2014 PRC minutes, which was seconded by **Commissioner McMoore** and approved unanimously.

PRC Reports and Requests

Dr. Sifford Presidential Medal of Freedom: Commissioner McMoore reminded the board that on November 24, Dr. Charles L. Sifford will be awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor. The golf course at Revolution Park is named in honor of Dr. Sifford; *Dr. Charles L. Sifford Golf Course at Revolution Park*. Dr. Sifford, a native of Charlotte, is the first African-American PGA member to compete professionally on the PGA Tour.

American Legion Meeting: Commissioner Barnhart thanked Director Garges for meeting with representatives of the local American Legion to discuss ways to recognize members of the armed services as a part of the American Legion Memorial Stadium renovation plans. Jim noted that it is important that the history behind the stadium/stadium name be memorialized in some way.

Matthews Sportsplex: Commissioner Powell asked if any citizens has expressed concerns over the tree cutting at the Sportsplex. Director Garges responded no. Commissioner Brisley inquired about the championship field. Lee Jones, Division Director of Capital Planning Services shared that the championship field will be a natural turf field as opposed to sport turf in order to not exceed the impervious limits.

Master Plan Update: Chair Brisley asked that the board be informed of the dates for town presentations of the updated Master Plan.

Vets: Chair Brisley recognized vets Commissioner Charlie McRee and Commissioner Ed Barnhart. Chair Rob Brisley is also a vet.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.